

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/770,112

Examiner

Allen Wong

Applicant(s)

MOUTIN, JEAN-MICHEL

Art Unit

2621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to after final amendment 12/5/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3, 5, 8-14, 16-18, 20, 21, 24, 27-29 and 31, renumbered as claims 1-21.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

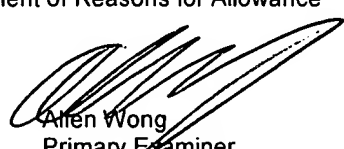
* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


Allen Wong
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2621

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-3, 5, 8-14, 16-18, 20, 21, 24, 27-29 and 31 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art does not specifically disclose the specific combination of limitations as disclosed in claim 1: a device comprising: an MPEG decoder structured to decode several coded images from at least a first and a second MPEG stream for displaying simultaneously one image of the first MPEG stream and one image of the second MPEG stream, the coded images belonging to a first type or to a second type, the images of the first type being frame interlaced images comprising two fields, the decoding of which is completed in two periods, one of the periods being equal to the time duration of one field display, and the images of the second type being interlaced half-images or progressive images, the decoding of which is completed in one of the periods; and a decoder control circuit for controlling the MPEG decoder, the decoder control circuit being configured to receive an order to decode a plurality of images at each of the periods and including a priority assignment circuit structured to, at each period, grant among the images to be decoded a decoding priority such that the highest decoding priority is granted to images of the first type that have received their decoding order for more than one of the periods, a lower decoding priority is granted to images of the second type, and the lowest decoding priority is granted to images of the first type that have received their decoding order for less than one of the periods. Similarly, the prior art does not specifically disclose the combination of limitations of claim 8.

3. Also, the prior art does not specifically disclose the combination of limitations as disclosed in claim 18: a device, comprising: an MPEG decoder configured to decode a plurality of MPEG image sequences from more than one MPEG stream in parallel; and a controller coupled to the MPEG decoder and configured to control the MPEG decoder such that: a received frame-interlaced image sequence is decodable during two periods following an associated decoding order; and a received non-frame-interlaced image sequence is decodable during a first period following an associated decoding order, wherein the controller comprises a prioritizing module configured to assign a first decoding priority to received frame-interlaced image sequences during a second period following their associated decoding order, a second decoding priority to received non-frame interlaced image sequence and a third decoding priority to received frame-interlaced image sequence during a first period following their associated decoding order. Similarly, the prior art does not specifically disclose the combination of limitations of claim 10.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Allen Wong whose telephone number is (571) 272-7341.

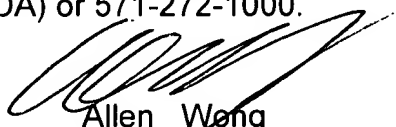
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The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays to Thursdays from 8am-6pm
Flextime.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John W. Miller can be reached on (571) 272-7353. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Allen Wong
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2621

AW
12/18/07